

Section 6. Promotion of Measures for Self-Sufficiency Support of Single Parent Families

With regards to measures for single parent families, the “Law for the Welfare of Mothers with Dependents and Widows” was amended in 2002. In addition, comprehensive measures for self-sufficiency support have been implemented that include ① support measures for childrearing and living, ② employment support measures, ③ measures to secure childrearing expenses, and ④ financial support measures.

With regard to the employment support measures included in this law, the “5 Year Plan to Promote ‘from Welfare to Employment’” was compiled in December 2007 as part of an employment support strategy, one of the main points of “Strategy for Improvement of Growth”. In FY 2008, the following new measures were being implemented to further facilitate improved self-sufficiency support:

- ① Addition of home-based employment promotion programs to the programs of employment and self-sufficiency support centers for single parent families which already operated by prefectures, designated cities, and core cities, and creating new employment and self-sufficiency support programs for other cities so that similar programs can be implemented
- ② Revision of the system including establishment of a one-time allowance to support admission to advanced skill training promotion payment programs
- ③ In addition to single parent self-sufficiency support program formulation programs, establishment of employment preparation support course programs for single mothers who are not able to work immediately to develop their motivation to work

With regard to measure to stop part of payments after 5 years from start of child rearing allowances claims that has been in effect since April 2008, and taking into consideration the arrangement of the governmental parties, half of the payment will be stopped for those who do not show any motivation to work and also not hampered from working because they or their children are injured or sick, while payment will not be stopped for the others.